



October 2, 2018

Ex Parte Notice

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On Monday, October 1, 2018, the undersigned along with Nathan Weber and Andy Deinert on behalf of Vantage Point Solutions (VPS) had a telephone call with Suzanne Yelen, Alec MacDonell, Cathy Zima, Cha-Chi Fan and Stephen Wang of the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) of the Federal Communications Commission (Commission). During the call, we discussed various aspects of the Commission's recent Order regarding performance testing rules for supported broadband networks ("Performance Testing Order").¹ The concerns raised were a result of the data VPS has collected during the development of the VPS Broadband Evaluation Testing and Tracking Instrument (BETTI). The BETTI box performs speed and latency testing based on the rules set forth in the Performance Testing Order.

VPS encouraged the FCC to consider clarifying that any performance testing be performed on the subscriber's side of the provider's interface to get an accurate measurement of the actual speed and latency that will be experienced by the subscriber. In addition, it was recommended that the Commission consider relaxing the requirement that the testing be performed at a remote test server that is located at (or reached by passing through) an FCC Internet Exchange Point (IXP) for Rural Local Exchange Carriers. The rationale for this was provided in a previous filing² and VPS plans on making actual measured data that supports this recommendation part of the record in the coming weeks.

VPS also described capacity limitations with both the network and remote test servers if the testing must be performed at the "beginning of each test hour window."³ Even though all tests will not be performed during the same week of each quarter, VPS asked that the FCC

¹ Connect America Fund, Order DA-18-710A1 (WCB, WTB, and OET, rel. July 6 2018), ("Performance Testing Order")

² Letter from Larry Thompson of Vantage Point Solutions to Marlene Dortch, Dated August 28, 2018.

³ Performance Testing Order, Paragraph 28.



consider allowing the initiation of the testing to start at various times throughout each test hour.

We agreed with the FCC that cross-talk will impact the results of speed tests, especially in instances where the FCC required speed is 10/1Mbps and possibly even 25/3Mbps. Our measurements with the BETTI box have shown that most streaming services are very bursty in nature and this sample may show a network usage of less than 64 kbps, yet the streaming service could consume most of the user's network capacity moments later after the test has been initiated. The Commission confirmed that the network usage did not have to be determined by a single sample, but could be measured over a period of time to ensure the streaming usage characteristics are properly characterized.

VPS asked the FCC to consider the situation where a subscriber refuses to allow the provider to install a test device on their premises. We also discussed situations where subscriber devices such as home security cameras will result in almost continuous cross-talk on the subscriber network and in some instances will never have an idle line. VPS encouraged the Commission to consider this situation when determining the methodology for the selection of the test subscribers.

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Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS with your office. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (605) 995-1777 or Larry.Thompson@Vantagepnt.com.

Sincerely,

Larry D. Thompson
Chief Executive Officer
Vantage Point Solutions

cc:
Suzanne Yelen
Alec MacDonell
Cathy Zima
Cha-Chi Fan
Stephen Wang